UNFINISHED VERSES

Bhakti Baxter, El Celso, Rakeem Cunningham, Rafael Domenech, Fernando Rodríguez Falcón, Nereida García Ferraz, Shizu Saldamando, Paula de Solminihac, Paola Vega, and Tomas Vu

Curated by Alexandre Arrechea

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRENCHTOWN, NJ — Opening at ArtYard on Oct. 19, the exhibition *Unfinished Verses* explores the intricacies and ongoing nature of the creative process by presenting sketchbooks by 10 contemporary artists. Visible through small apertures in specially made looking devices, the sketchbooks will be turned regularly to reveal new pages, shown one at a time, over the exhibition's three-month span.

A sketchbook is more than just a collection of pages for an artist — it's a gateway to their creative universe, bridging the tangible world with the realm of ideas. Unbound by linear constraints, sketchbooks serve as a dynamic canvas where drawings, collages, and artistic explorations overlap and interact. Each page forms a grid where various artistic moments converge, allowing old solutions to make way for new possibilities. Thus, a sketchbook becomes a living document of artistic evolution — a personal journal that captures the essence of an artist's journey through every line and stroke, all within a compact space.

Unfinished Verses is designed to create spaces where viewers engage with the artwork through curiosity and reflection, rather than a superficial glance. It invites a slower, more immersive experience, revealing the intricacies of artistic processes through pages that have been sewn, torn, stained, and weathered over time.

Curated by Alexandre Arrechea, it features work by Bhakti Baxter, El Celso, Rakeem Cunningham, Rafael Domenech, Fernando Rodriguez Falcon, Nereida García Ferraz, Shizu Saldamando, Paula de Solminihac, Paola Vega, and Tomas Vu.

"In *Unfinished Verses*, the goal is not to inundate with the oversaturation typical of social media, but to preserve the artist's intimacy and encourage viewers to discover the work in a contemplative manner," Arrechea said.

For *Unfinished Verses*, ArtYard constructed 10 ceiling-mounted boxes, resembling upside-down plinths, from which to view the sketchbooks. Each features two viewing holes

to accommodate people of all heights and those who use wheelchairs. The experience of peering at the works through peepholes is inspired by and akin to ArtYard's VSGs (Very Small Galleries), miniature galleries visible through openings behind tiny doors. Visitors will only be able to view one page of each sketchbook during their visit unless they are in the gallery when ArtYard staff turn pages on Thursdays to Saturdays, offering visitors an opportunity to see a second page. Return visits will reveal each artist's artistic journey evolution over time.

ArtYard staff will turn sketchbook pages on Thursdays to Saturdays, offering visitors an opportunity to see each artists' journey evolve over time.

VISITOR DETAILS

Unfinished Verses opens with a reception from 6 to 8 PM on Saturday, Oct. 19.
A Curator Talk with Alexandre Arrchea is at 11 AM on Sunday, Oct. 20.

Also on view:

> *Barrier*, curated by Kaitlin Pomerantz and Lucia Thomé with work by Sandra SK Amoabeng, Matthew Colaizzo, Ghida Dalloul, FORTUNE (Andra Palchick, Heidi Ratanavanich, Connie Yu), Rami George, David L. Johnson, Naomieh Jovin, Zach Ozma, Pallavi Sen, Ivanco Talevski, Kristen Neville Taylor, Levester Williams
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> *Artist Woman*, curated by Studio Route 29, a solo exhibition and installation by Oakland-based artist Nicole Storm.

Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 AM to 5 PM and until 7 PM on Thursday.

For more information on Unfinished Verses, visit artyard.org.

ArtYard is an incubator for creative expression and a catalyst for collaborations that reveal the transformational power of art. Its campus includes an arts center featuring exhibition space and a state-of-the-art theater as well as two buildings housing its residency program. To learn more, visit artyard.org.